

Offton & Willisham Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy

Introduction

1.1 In common with all Parish Councils, Offton and Willisham Parish Council (Council) receives requests from third parties for donations. The Power of the Council to donate is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, s.137, which allows a local authority to spend a limited amount on activities for which it has no specific power, but which the authority considers 'will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

1.2 If the Council has determined its eligibility to use the General Power of Competence, all donations made by the Council will be made under the Localism Act 2011 ss. 1-8.

1.3 The Council receives donation and grant requests that far exceed the sum of money the Council has for this purpose when setting a prudent budget for the year. It is therefore necessary to implement policy guidelines to follow when deciding on awarding a grant.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Council that where charitable organisations, supported by local people, can provide facilities and services for the community, they are supported financially in doing so. The Council will earmark a sum within each annual budget to be used at the sole discretion of the Council in furtherance of this policy.

Conditions

3.1 All requests must promote the wellbeing of parish residents or the fabric of the parish.

3.2 Applications must state the:

- a. amount required
- b. purpose to which it will be used
- c. number of parish residents who have benefitted from any activity or an explanation of the direct benefit to the parish of any activity of the applicant within the last 12 months.
- d. proportion of the overall activity of the applicant work within (or for) the parish represented in percentage terms.

3.3 Requests will not be considered from individuals, non-charitable bodies outside of the Parish or for work unrelated to the Parish.

3.4 Requests will not be considered from charitable bodies that have not demonstrated benefit within/for the parish within the preceding 12 months, or if it is the considered opinion of the Council that there is no reasonable expectation that any benefit within / for the parish is likely to be gained within the following 12 months.

3.5 Requests will not be considered from bodies from other areas of the UK unless the service they provide significantly benefits the parish or its residents.

3.6 Requests should be for the following financial year and are for single awards. The Parish does not commit to continuing support and no award or series of awards are to be taken as an indicator of future funding.

3.7 The sum of money requested should be commensurate to the benefit obtained by the parish when compared to the overall activity of any organisation making an application. This is to mean that an organisation for which activity in the parish represents a very small proportion of its overall activity (eg a national charity) will not be eligible for as large an award as a body for which the majority of its activity is promoting the wellbeing of parish residents (eg a local village charity).

3.8 The decision of the Council is final.

Procedure

4.1 All requests will be considered at the Spring Council meeting, normally following receipt of an application form. No awards will be made at other times except at the sole discretion of the Council.

4.2. Grant application forms can be found on the Council website, under Parish Council Documents www.offtonandwillisham-pc.gov.uk

4.2 At that meeting Council will first consider the financial position and agree the total sum to be made available for donations.

4.3 The Council will decide which requests are to be refused. It is not the policy of the Council to provide notice of this decision unless a stamped addressed envelope is provided for the purpose.

4.4 Of those requests considered favourably, the Council will decide the level of support it is able to make in each case. The amount required notified by the applicant will be used as a guide only.

4.5 Applicants who are able to demonstrate the greatest benefit within / for the parish as a proportion of their activity will be considered more favourably than those for whom such activity is marginal.

4.6 Payment will be made by cheque following a formal favourable decision by Council.

This policy was adopted at Full Council meeting in: ___ May 2023 _____

This policy was reviewed and readopted in: ___ May 2024 _____